

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-04

TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 TAR-01 L-02 /058 W

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R 151719Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9419

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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DEPARTMENT PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, GW

SUBJECT: RENEWED THREAT TO INCREASE EC PARBOILED RICE
PROTECTION

REF: BRUSSELS 3205

1. MINAG REPRESENTATIVES ASSIGNED TO REVIEW THE
REVIVED PROPOSAL TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL PROTECTION TO THE
FRENCH AND ITALIAN RICE INDUSTRY INFORMED US THAT THESE
DISCUSSIONS HAVE NOT PROGRESSED BEYOND A TECHNICAL
STUDY OF THE PROPER TARIFF CLASSIFICATION. MINAG
AGREED THAT THE PROPOSAL WAS NOT IN THE GERMAN BEST IN-
TERESTS. THEY ALSO AGREED WITH OUR CONTENTION THAT PAR-
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BOILING WAS NOT SUFFICIENT GROUNDS TO RECLASSIFY UNDER

CXT 21.07 AS A PREPARED FOOD ALTHOUGH THEY CAUTIONED US THAT THEY HAVE NOT COMPLETED THEIR STUDY. HOWEVER, IN THEIR OPINION, A BETTER ARGUMENT COULD BE MADE FOR EITHER AN ADDITIONAL CATEGORY SUBJECT TO LEVY, OR A QUALITY COEFFICIENT THAT WOULD REFLECT AT LEAST THE HIGHER PRICE DUE TO THE PARBOILING PROCESS. NEITHER OF THESE ALTERNATIVES IS WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE PRESENT REVIEW.

2. AT OUR REQUEST, A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE NORTH EUROPEAN RICE MILLER'S ASSOCIATION PROVIDED US WITH THEIR REBUTTAL TO THE PROPOSAL SPONSORED BY THE EUROPEAN PARBOILING INDUSTRY. THIS INDUSTRY IS COMPOSED OF THREE ITALIAN AND TWO FRENCH MILLS.

3. ACCORDING TO THE NORTHERN EUROPEAN RICE MILLERS ASSOCIATION, THE PRESENT EFFORTS ARE AN ATTEMPT TO BAIL OUT THE TWO FRENCH PLANTS. BOTH PLANTS ARE REPORTEDLY OPERATING BELOW CAPACITY DUE TO THEIR POOR LOCATION RELATIVE TO THE SOURCES OF SUPPLY FOR LONG GRAIN RICE. THE THREE ITALIAN MILLS ARE OPERATING AT FULL CAPACITY - OR ABOUT 50,000 TONS ANNUALLY - AND ARE SELLING MOST OF THEIR RICE IN ITALY. THE TRADE ESTIMATES THE EC MARKET AS WORTH ABOUT 80,000 TONS ANNUALLY FOR U.S. PARBOILED RICE MILLERS WITH ABOUT 35-40,000 TONS COMING TO GERMANY. THE RICE TRADE IN HOLLAND, BELGIUM AND THE U.K. ARE WILLING TO SUPPORT THE GERMAN POSITION.

4. THE TRADE ALSO ADVISED US THAT THIS SUBJECT WILL BE BROUGHT UP IN A SPECIAL MEETING DURING THE RICE TRADE CONVENTION IN NEW ORLEANS NEXT WEEK.

5. WE PLAN FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH APPROPRIATE MINAG OFFICIALS TO BROADEN OFFICIAL RECOGNITION OF OUR KEEN INTEREST IN THIS PROPOSAL. HILLENBRAND

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